

## Feels Like Home

### A survey of Richmond Work by Rebeca García-González

Exhibition: January 20 – March 19, 2022

Closing Reception: Sunday, March 13, 12pm-2pm

Richmond and its surrounds inspires and serves as a platform for exploration in the work of Rebeca García-González. Her landscapes encompass West County's quintessential scenes—sunny urban streets, rolling hills dotted with oil storage tanks, and mammoth shipyards—while also revealing lesser known locales. This includes a vernal pool, a swamp next to housing tracts, and a forgotten company town.

Bringing together paintings and sketchbooks, *Feels Like Home* presents a visual tour of Richmond's natural and industrialized beauty as it exists side-by-side. Painted over the last decade, the work in this exhibition also conjures memories of what has been lost and what Richmond still stands to lose. As García-González explains, "Most of these landscapes are contested spaces. Either developers want them or industry is changing them."

Interspersed among García-González's landscapes are portraits of Richmond residents who represent the community that is at the heart of our city's future.

*Feels Like Home* also marks the unveiling of García-González's new permanent mural at Richmond Art Center, *We Found Joy In Art-Making / Encontramos La Felicidad Haciendo Arte* (2021). Painted over a month in December, the work explores the connections between art making and wellness, and was created with assistance from Richmond youth Leslie Poblano and Denise Campos.

**About the Artist:** Rebeca García-González is an award-winning visual artist and long-term resident of Richmond, CA. Her interest in the visual arts began early, at a magnet school for the arts and the Art Students League of San Juan. She earned a BFA at the University of Puerto Rico, where she studied printmaking and painted murals. García-González then came to the Bay Area and studied graphic design at the Academy of Art.

While García-González's painting is best-known through her public art and portraits of undocumented immigrants, her landscapes of the East Bay have earned awards and are part of many private collections. Her 2018 solo show featured portraits of post-Maria Puerto Ricans, completed during a six-week trip to the island and financed via a Kickstarter campaign. She is currently working on a portrait series of Richmond activists.

García-González's murals can be found all around Richmond, where she has painted with local youth in collaboration with several non-profits. Some have social justice themes, others respond to the needs of the community. She has been commissioned by the Friends of the Richmond Greenway, Police Activities League, Watershed Project, and East Bay Community Foundation.

[rebecasart.com](http://rebecasart.com), [www.facebook.com/rebecagarciagonzalez](https://www.facebook.com/rebecagarciagonzalez), Instagram @rebecathepainter

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### ARTWORK LIST

*Bay Trail Near Shimada Park*, 2017, Oil on canvas, 24" x 30"

*Bienvenida Meza*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

*Black Barge*, 2017, Oil on canvas, 22 x 28"

*Carmen*, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 24" x 24", NFS

*Cell Phone Towers at Navellier Street*, 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 36"

*Dover and 23rd Street*, 2016, Oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

*End of Pier 3*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 24" x 24"

*Entrance to Tormey*, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24"

*Haircut on 23rd*, 2016, Oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

*Judith at Meeker Slough*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 18 x 24"

*Junk on Pier 3*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 18 x 36"

*Lorenzo Plazola*, 2014, Oil on Canvas, 30 x 40"

*Lupe*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

*Meeker Slough in Winter*, 2014, Oil on canvas, 24 x 30"

*Montalvin*, 2016, Oil on canvas, 18" x 18"

*Point San Pablo Floating Homes*, 2013, Oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

*Sandpiper Spit at Brickyard Cove*, 2017, Acrylic on Canvas, 16 x 20"

*Ship and Crane*, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24"

*Stern of the SS Red Oak Victory*, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 18"

*Vernal Pool in Point Molate*, 2013, Oil on canvas, 24" x 36"